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Letter dated 8 July 2016 from the representatives of China and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the joint statement on strengthening global strategic stability between the President of the People's Republic of China and the President of the Russian Federation, signed in Beijing on 25 June 2016 by the President of the People's Republic of China, Xi Jinping, and the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin (see annex).

We should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 97, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vitaly Churkin
Permanent Representative
of the Russian Federation

(*Signed*) Wu Haitao
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Deputy Permanent Representative
of the People's Republic of China

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Annex to the letter dated 8 July 2016 from the representatives of China and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Original: Chinese and Russian

Joint Statement of the President of the People's Republic of China and the President of the Russian Federation on strengthening global strategic stability

We, the President of People's Republic of China and the President of the Russian Federation, attaching great importance to the maintenance of international and regional strategic balance and stability, make the following statement:

We are concerned by the current increase in negative factors affecting global strategic stability around the world. The danger of this trend is, first and foremost, that individual countries and military-political alliances seek to gain a decisive advantage in the military or military-technology fields, in order to be able, without the slightest hindrance, to serve their own interests in international affairs through the threat or use of force. Blatantly disregarding the fundamental security principle of undiminished security for all countries, they attempt to sacrifice the security of other countries in favour of their own. Such policies lead to uncontrolled growth in military power, shaking the global system of strategic stability and running counter to the concept of comprehensive and universal disarmament under effective international supervision.

Some countries and alliances, seeking to acquire military dominance, stubbornly refuse to discuss the reduction and limitation of the weapons that ensure their own decisive military advantage, which is the main cause of the undermining of global strategic balance and stability.

Developments in the field of anti-missile systems are of particular concern. The non-constructive behaviour of unilaterally developing and deploying strategic missile defence systems all over the world has a negative impact on international and regional strategic balance, stability and security, and also undermines the basis for the formulation and adoption of ways to deal with the proliferation of missiles and missile technology using multilateral political — diplomatic methods.

It is worth noting that outside forces often use conjectural pretexts for the deployment of the "Aegis Ashore" system in Europe and the Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) system in the Asia-Pacific region, as well as the planned deployment of that system in Northeast Asia. These deployments are totally unrelated to the real challenges and threats being faced in the field of missile proliferation, are clearly inconsistent with their stated objectives, and seriously damage the national strategic security interests of countries in the region, including China and Russia. China and Russia strongly oppose them.

The "global real-time combat systems" and other long-range precision strike weapons developed by some countries could seriously undermine strategic balance and stability and trigger a new arms race.

The threats of the weaponization of outer space and the transformation of outer space into an area of military confrontation are on the rise. This trend will

undermine strategic stability, and additionally will threaten international security. In this context, the start of a negotiating process to draft a legally binding international agreement to ensure the non-weaponization of outer space, based on the Sino-Russian draft treaty on the prevention of the deployment of weapons in outer space and the threat or use of force against outer space objects (an updated draft of which was submitted to the Geneva Conference on Disarmament on 10 June 2014), is of great practical significance. Promoting an international initiative and political obligation on the no-first-deployment of weapons in outer space is also of great importance. This is consistent with the objectives of the draft treaty on the prevention of the deployment of weapons in outer space and the threat or use of force against outer space objects jointly submitted by China and Russia, and is conducive to achieving the goal of preventing the weaponization of outer space.

Arms control is an important means of strengthening international security and stability. Any measures in this field should be guided by the basic principles of the final document of the first special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament, signed in 1978. These principles are of practical significance, especially because disarmament and arms control should be fair and balanced, and should be conducive to strengthening the security of each country.

The rising risk of non-State actors acquiring chemical and biological weapons to carry out terrorist acts and violent extremist activities is of great concern. The repeated use of chemical weapons by "Islamic State" militants in Syria and Iraq exemplifies such events. One way to deal with this threat is to improve the foundations of the relevant international law. Therefore, the drafting at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva of a convention to prevent acts of chemical and biological terrorism has important practical significance.

The international community is accustomed to viewing "strategic stability" as a purely military concept in the field of nuclear weapons. This fails to reflect the breadth and multi-faceted nature of contemporary strategic issues. To achieve the goal of defending peace and security, the concept should be viewed from a wider and broader perspective in which strategic stability is taken as a condition of international relations, with the following main points:

- In the political field, all countries and groups of countries should abide by the purposes and principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations with regard to the use of military force and coercive measures; respect the legitimate interests of all countries and peoples in the settlement of international and regional hotspot issues; and oppose interference in the political life of other countries.

- In the military field, all countries should maintain the their military capabilities at the minimum level required to ensure their national security; should refrain from taking any actions such as building up their militaries or establishing and expanding military-political alliances that might be seen by other members of the international community as a threat to their national security and force them to take countermeasures to restore the balance that had been undermined; and should resolve their differences through positive and constructive dialogue, thereby enhancing mutual trust and cooperation.

China and Russia call on all members of the international community to use these principles, aimed at consolidating world peace, security and stability, as the

basis for action, and are willing to strengthen dialogue, coopcration and exchanges with the international community on that basis.

President of the People's Republic of China
Xi Jinping

President of the Russian Federation
V.V. Putin

Beijing, 25 June 2016